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PATENT

U.S. Patent Application of Heinrich et al.  
Serial No. 10/759,478 Filed: January 16, 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

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Current listing of claims in this patent application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fine grained sintered cemented carbide containing chromium, comprising a first phase based on tungsten carbide which is bound by means of a second phase of a metallic binder based on Co or CoNiFe, and of at least one additional phase comprising at least one carbide or mixed carbide of tantalum,
  - the sintered cemented carbide contains approximately 0.3 to 4 % Ta, as related to the total mass of the sintered cemented carbide,
  - the tungsten carbide has a grain size of between about 0.1 and about 1.3 ~~mm~~  $\mu$ m,
  - the binder phase contains the metals W, Cr and Ta, dissolved in solid solution, and
  - the at least one additional phase comprises a TaC phase visible by optical microscopy.
2. (Currently Amended) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tungsten carbide has a grain size of between about 0.3 and about 0.6 ~~mm~~  $\mu$ m.
3. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sintered cemented carbide contains approximately 0.8 to 1.2 % Ta.
4. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sintered cemented carbide contains up to 3 mass-% of the tungsten carbide is replaced by at least one hard component which is selected from the carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, including their mixtures and solid solutions, of the metals Ti, Zr, Hf and Mo.
5. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein up to 50 mass-% of the tantalum is replaced by niobium.

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6. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sintered cemented carbide contains approximately 0.4 to 0.6 % Nb, as related to the total mass of the sintered cemented carbide.
7. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 5 wherein the binder phase additionally contains Nb, dissolved in solid solution.
8. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least one additional phase comprises a (Ta, Nb)C phase visible by optical microscopy.
9. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the binder phase forms about 3 to about 18 % of the total mass of the sintered cemented carbide.
10. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 9 wherein the binder phase contains up to about 20 % tungsten, as related to its mass and dissolved in solid solution.
11. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 9 wherein the sintered cemented carbide has a Cr content of from about 1 to about 40 %, as related to the total mass of the binder phase.
12. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sintered cemented carbide additionally contains up to 8 % V, as related to the total mass of the binder phase.
13. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 12 wherein the binder phase contains at least about 2 % V.
14. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 12 wherein the binder phase additionally contains V, dissolved in solid solution.

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15. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 12 wherein the at least one additional phase is visible by optical microscopy and comprises at least one of the (Ta, V)C and (Ta, Nb, V)C phases.

16. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 11 wherein the at least one additional phase comprises a (Cr, Co)-rich mixed carbide phase.

17. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 16 wherein the sintered cemented carbide contains approximately 17 to 30 % Cr, as related to the total mass of the binder phase.

18. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 11 wherein the sintered cemented carbide contains approximately 6 to 12 % Cr, as related to the total mass of the binder phase.

19. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metals dissolved in the binder phase, with the exception of W, are dissolved in the binder phase in an amount corresponding to their respective solubility in the binder phase at room temperature.

20. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sintered cemented carbide has a porosity of < A02.

21. (Original) The sintered cemented carbide as claimed in claim 1 further including a hard, wear-resistant coating applied by physical or chemical vapor deposition.

22. (Currently Amended) A cutting tool comprising a rake face and a flank face and comprising a cutting edge at the intersection of the rake face and the flank face, said cutting tool having a substrate wherein the substrate comprising a fine grained sintered cemented carbide containing chromium comprising a first phase based on tungsten carbide which is

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bound by means of a second phase of a metallic binder based on Co or CoNiFe, and of at least one additional phase comprising at least one carbide or mixed carbide of tantalum,

- the sintered cemented carbide contains approximately 0.3 to 4 % Ta, as related to the total mass of the sintered cemented carbide,
- the tungsten carbide has a grain size of between about 0.1 and about 1.3 mm  $\mu$ m,
- the binder phase contains the metals W, Cr and Ta, dissolved in solid solution, and
- the at least one additional phase comprises a TaC phase visible by optical microscopy.

23. (Original) The cutting tool as claimed in claim 22 wherein the cutting tool is one of a drill, a bit, a milling cutter, a part of such tools, a cutting insert and an indexable insert.

**Claims 24-42 (Cancelled)**